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# Economic and Social Council

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**Committee for Programme and Coordination**
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Agenda item 9
**Adoption of the report of the Committee of its forty-first session**

## Draft report

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**Addendum**

## Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

*(item 4 (a))*

### Section 8
### Office of Legal Affairs

1. At its 26th and 27th meeting, on 28 June 2001, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 8, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel, introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

**Discussion**

3. Support was expressed for the role and activities of the section. Acknowledgement was made in regard to the contribution of subprogrammes 3 and 5 in the areas of international trade law and preparations for the international criminal court, respectively. Support was also expressed for the work of the Preparatory Committee for the International Criminal Court.

4. The view was expressed that there should be greater harmony between the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement contained in the budget

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fascicle and those outlined in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. Particular reference was made, in this regard, to subprogrammes 1 and 2. Views were expressed and sought on the role and function of Legal Affairs in the context of the operations of the United Nations, in particular as it relates to providing legal services to legislative and intergovernmental bodies.

5. A view was expressed that the narrative part of the programme was not consistent with the medium-term plan, and that the programme did not refer to the resolutions that contain its mandate in all subprogrammes.

6. Furthermore it was pointed out that some of the indicators of achievement were difficult to measure and that consideration should be given to expressing these indicators in more quantifiable terms.

7. The broad nature of some external factors were pointed out, particular reference being made to those presented in subprogramme 6.

8. The understanding was expressed that, after a period of time, the components of the results based budget, including expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, would be reviewed and their success assessed.

9. Concern was expressed about the issuance of documents in all official languages and the simultaneous availability of these documents in all official languages on the web site.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

10. **The Committee requests the Secretary-General to realign the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of section 8, Legal affairs, in conformity with the medium-term plan and to submit the revised section to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.**